

Wandering Artist

Description:

Children will visit a park or another scenic area, explore prospective subject matter, and paint a landscape.

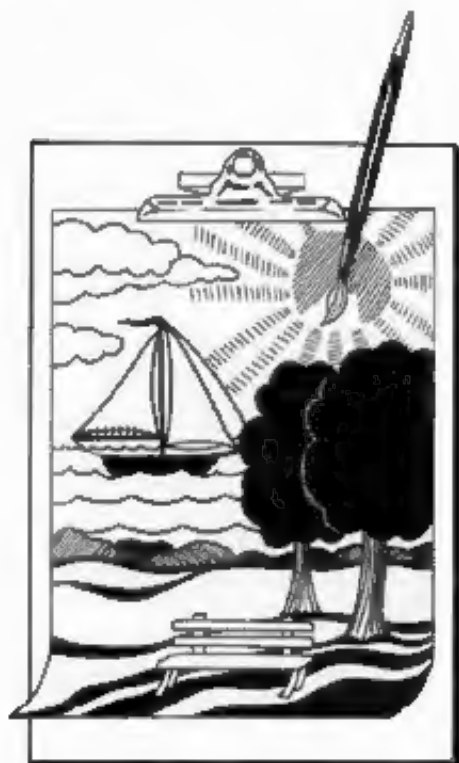
Materials:

small watercolor paint tray, paintbrushes, pencils, water container, clipboard or piece of cardboard, thick poster paper, a towel or blanket to sit on

Standards: 3

Concepts: Color and emphasis

Level: Pre K-3



Procedure:

Show your child some landscape paintings. There are a number of wonderful examples on this CD-ROM, including Grant Wood's *Stone City, Iowa*, Monet's *The Water Lily Pond*, and John Constable's *Cottage in a Cornfield*. Then take your child on a trip and bring along some art supplies. You could go to the country, a park, the beach, or any scenic area. Let your child choose a place to paint, lay out a blanket, and set up the clipboard with a sheet of paper. Have your child sketch what she sees in pencil before painting the scene in watercolors. Encourage her to show how the day and the surroundings make her feel. For example, if it is a warm day, your little artist could use warm colors like red, yellow, and orange.

Artist Tie-in

Read the book *A Walk in Monet's Garden* by Francesca Crespi, and talk about how Monet and other famous artists were inspired by what they saw when they took walks outdoors. Introduce your child to the Group of Seven, artists who painted the Canadian landscape in a unique way.

Just for Kids:

One hundred years ago, a group of artists known as the Impressionists took their brushes and palettes outdoors and painted pictures of the countryside. Beaches, hills, meadows, forests, and lakes were some of their favorite subjects. These artists usually selected one thing in the landscape to emphasize. Their paintings showed not only what they saw, but also how the landscape made them feel. Is there a place nearby that would make a great painting? A lake, a hill, or a stretch of beach? If you live in the city, why not paint a cityscape? Is there one thing in your picture you want to emphasize or focus on? Sketch your landscape in pencil first and then add color. Don't forget to clean your brush every time you change from one paint color to another. And don't be afraid to add things from your imagination, if you think they will make the painting better. Remember, you are the artist and you can create anything you want.

Resources:

Group of Seven: www.mcmichael.com/group.htm

Art Posters: www.art.com

ArtMuseum: www.artmuseum.net



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